RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday the 16th July, 1991/25 Asadha, 1913 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer with profoud sorrow to the passing away of Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi, a former Member of Rajya Sabha, on the 15th of July, 1991 at the age of 71 years. Born at village Nargund in Karnataka in June, 1920, Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi was educated at Poona. He represented the Union Territory of Delhi in this House from April, 1978 to April, 1984. He was also a Member of Lok Sabha for two terms from 1967 to 1970 and again from 1971 to 1977. Shri Joshi started his career as an employee in the Ministry Accounts Department in 1942 but left his job in 1945 and because a whole-time political and social worker. Shri Joshi actively participated in the Goa Liberation Movement and suffered imprisonment under the Portuguese rule in Goa for some years. He also suffered imprisonment for political causes. He was earlier associated with the Jan Sangh and later with the Bharatiya Janata Party and held several important positions in the party. A protagonist of Hindi language, Shri Joshi always spoke in chaste Hindi and will be remembered for his lively participation.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi, I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our deep sense of sorrow and profound sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

निर्यात नीती में परिवर्तन

*41. श्री राम नरेश यादव :†

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने निर्यात नीति में परिवर्तन करने का कोई निर्णय लिया है ताकि इसे और अधिक प्रभावी बनाया जा सके ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री स्वतंत्र प्रभार (श्री पी० चिदंबरम) :

(क) तथा (ख) जी, हां। सरकार ने दिनांक 4 जुलाई, 91 को निम्नलिखित उद्देश्यों के प्रयोजन से एक्जिम नीति में महत्वपूर्ण ढांचागत परिवर्तन किए हैं ;

(क) लाइसेंसिंग में कमी लाना अथवा उसे समाप्त करना और अधिकाधिक स्वचालन लाना ;

(ख) निर्यात संवर्धन ;

(ग) अनुकूलतम आयात कटौती ;

किए गए परिवर्तनों की मुख्य विशेषताएं इस प्रकार हैं :--

(1) निर्यात से संबंधित आयात के लिए प्रतिपूर्ति लाइसेंसिंग योजना (आरईपी) अब प्रमुख साधन हो गई है। इसे अब "एक्जिम स्क्रिप्ट" कहा जाएगा और इसके तहत मुक्त रूप से व्यापार किया जाएगा।

(2) प्रत्येक निर्यात पर एफ़ओबी मूल्य के 5% से 20% की वर्तमान दरों को तुलना में अब 30% की एक समान आरईपी दी जाएगी। किन्तु रत्न तथा आभूषणों, कतिपय धातु--आधारित हस्तशिल्पों और समाचार पत्रों/पत्रिकाओं आदि पर विशेष दरें जारी रहेंगी।

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†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री राम नरेश यादव द्वारा पूछा गया।

(3) निर्यातकों को अधिकतम प्रोत्साहन देने की नई आरईपी योजना, जिनका आयात तीव्रता कृषि निर्यात की तरह कम हो ।

(4) अग्रिम लाइसेंसिंग योजना का, जिसके अन्तर्गत निर्यात-सम्बद्ध आयात की अनुमति दी जाती है, और अधिक सरलीकरण और सदृढ़ीकरण किया जा रहा है। अग्रिम लाइसेंस निर्यात पर आरईपी की दर निवल विदेशी मुद्रा (एनएफई) के 10% से बढ़ाकर निवल विदेशी मुद्रा के 20% कर दी गई है ।सरकार को आशा है कि इन परिवर्तनों के परिणामस्वरूप निर्यात बढ़ेंगे, स्वविवेकी नियंत्रण में कमी आयेगी, आयात के सम्बंध में ज्यादा स्वचालन आरम्भ हो जाएगा और आयात को निर्यात से जोड़ दिया जाएगा ।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदय, इस समय देश बहुत ही आर्थिक संकट से गुजर रहा है । एक तो बेलेंस आफ पेमेंट की समस्या है, फॉरेन एक्सचेंज रिजर्व की कमी है और साथ ही साथ जो बजटीय घाटा है उसके कारण यह संकट आया है । उससे देश को उभरना भी है और आज जो स्थिति है उस स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए देश को पटरी पर लाना है । सरकार को इसलिये रुपये का अवमूल्यन करना पड़ा और अवमूल्यन के पश्चात् जो व्यापार नीति है इस पर भी उसका प्रभाव पड़ना बहुत ही अवश्यमभावी है । इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर ऐसा लगता है कि यह जो व्यापार नीति, निर्यात संबंधी नीति है उसमें भी परिवर्तन किया गया है । भुगतान संतुलन की समस्या को हल करने के लिये निर्यात की भी अपनी एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है और इसके कार्यान्वयन में कुछ कठिनाइयां भी पिछले दिनों रही हैं, जिसको ध्यान में रखते हुये तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी ने लिबरेशन की पोलिसी को निर्यात व्यापार में अख्तियार किया था उसके परिणामस्वरूप जो स्थिति देश के सामने आयी थी वह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने रखकर कुछ प्रश्न करना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि उस लिबरेलाइजेशन पोलिसी के आधार पर परिणाम यह हुआ था कि वर्ष 1986-87 से लेकर 1989-90 में डॉलर टर्म में 17 प्रतिशत के हिसाब से निर्यात में वृद्धि हुई थी । लेकिन जब उसके पश्चात् एक नयी सरकार आयी, जिसने नयी नीतियां बनाने की घोषणा की थी, जिसने खुले दिमाग से और खुले मन से काम करने की बात सोची थी उसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि उसने जो कदम उठाये उससे वर्ष 1990-91 में यह वृद्धि घटकर 9 प्रतिशत हो गयी और जब 40 साल बनाम 4 माह की सरकार बनी तो उसके समय में अप्रैल, 1991 में 1 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि निर्यात में रही । इसलिये ऐसी स्थिति में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इन्होंने अपने उत्तर में जो यह कहा है कि सरकार को आशा है कि इन परिवर्तनों के परिणाम स्वरूप निर्यात बढ़ेंगे, स्वविवेकी निर्णयन में कमी आयेगी ।

महोदय, इस आधार पर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पहले जो निर्यात व्यापार में धीमी विकास दर रही, ऊंची लागत रही और जो कड़ा नियंत्रण था, जिसके आधार पर भ्रष्टाचार को बल मिलता था, उससे आप निकल पाएंगे या नहीं ? क्या यह कोरी कल्पना ही रह जाएगी ?

मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि 1991-92 में किस हद तक निर्यात में वृद्धि संभावित है ? जो निर्णय लिए गए हैं क्या उनके आधार पर वृद्धि हो सकेगी ?

महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का तीसरा भाग यह है कि यह जो कैश कंपनसेटरी सपोर्ट है, यह रिप्लैनिशमेंट लाइसेंसिंग स्कीम के हिसाब से 30 परसेंट दिया गया है । तो इन सब निर्णयों के आधार पर कितनी बचत सरकार कर लेगी ?

श्री सभापति : कितनी वृद्धि होगी और कितनी बचत होगी, ये दो सवाल हैं ।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have announced major changes in trade policy. So far as exports are concerned, fiscal policy, trade policy and the industrial policy together will determine the growth in exports and the growth in trade. Sir, I am confident that the trade policy which has been announced, the fiscal policy and the industrial policy which will be announced, together will bring about a major positive change in our export trade and will give a massive thrust to exports. So far as REP licensing scheme is concerned, the REP licensing was already there. It is not a new instrument. What we have done is to make the REP licence the principal instrument to finance imports and to promote exports. Sir, I can only convey my confidence to the hon. Member and to hon. Members that these changes in policies, I believe will bring about a massive new thrust to exports.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : आपने संभावित वृद्धि का कोई जिक्र नहीं किया है । वह वृद्धि कितने प्रतिशत हैं जिसके आधार पर आपने ये निर्णय लिए हैं ?

श्री सभापति : वह एक्सपैक्टेशन क्या है ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in 1991 the exports were Rs. 32,527 crores and there was a trade deficit of Rs. 10,643 crores. I have already indicated that I will set the targets for this years exports only after the budget is presented. But, I have set myself a modest goal that by the end of this year we should achieve at least a nine per cent growth in exports in dollar terms and that the trade deficit should be smaller than that of last year in dollar terms.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि इस निर्णय से हम लोगों के मन में यह शंका उठ रही है कि इसका असर कॉमन मैन पर भी महंगाई के रूप में पड़ेगा । क्या माननीय मंत्री जी सदन को आश्वस्त करेंगे कि इस निर्णय से कॉमन मैन पर कोई विशेष असर नहीं पड़ेगा जिससे कि लोगों को कठिनाई हो ।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The trade policy reforms I do not believe will directly affect the common man. If the hon. Member is referring to the adjustments in the exchange rate, I request that he address the question to the Finance Minister.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय सभापति जी, हमारे वाणिज्य मंत्री जी इस पद का चार्ज लेते ही परिवर्तनशील कार्यकलापों के साथ देश के सामने नयी वाणिज्य व्यवस्था और निर्यात नीति को ले कर आए हैं । मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं । महोदय, पिछली सरकार जो थी; उसके वाणिज्य मंत्री की रुचि राजनीति में ज्यादा थी और जो काम उनको सौंपा गया था, उसमें उनकी रुचि नहीं थी... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सभापति : वे अभी यहां उपस्थित नहीं हैं । अगर वे यहां होते तो जवाब मिल जाता ... **(व्यवधान)**

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि रुपए के अवमूल्यन के पश्चात् विदेश व्यापार नीति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आपने जो कदम उठाए हैं, उनके अंतर्गत वित्त, औद्योगिक और विदेशी पूंजी निवेश संबंधी नीति में किस प्रकार के परिवर्तन संभावित हैं और किस किस क्षेत्र को निर्यात करने पर कितनी सुविधाएं आप देने जा रहे हैं ? इनमें विशेषकर कुटीर उद्योग जो भारत के हैं, उनका कितना निर्यात कर रहे हैं और भारी उद्योग का कितना निर्यात कर रहे हैं ? इसी तरह से प्राइवेट सेक्टर का कितना निर्यात कर रहे हैं और गवर्नमेंट सेक्टर का कितना निर्यात आप कर रहे हैं ?

इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि आयात की पूरी नीति पर पुनर्विचार करने की आपकी कोई योजना है ? और अगर नहीं है तो कब तक बनाएंगे और कब तक उसको लागू करेंगे ?

यह भी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो छोटे छोटे निर्यातकर्ता हैं, जो गरीब निर्यातकर्ता हैं, जो कुटीर उद्योगों से संबंधित हैं, उन छोटे निर्यातकर्ताओं को सुविधा देने तथा उनकी रक्षा के लिए आपके पास कोई प्रावधान है जब कि आपके द्वारा प्रस्तुत नीति में निर्यात के नगद मुआवजे की योजना को निलंबित करना भी शामिल है? ये तमाम प्रश्न मैं सभापति जी के माध्यम से आपसे जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have already indicated that some consequential changes would have to be made following the new trade policy. For example, in the area of advance licensing and in the area of REP licence, now rechristened as "Exim Scrips", we have to make a number of administrative changes to ensure that the exporters and importers are not affected by the bureaucratic delays and that is being attended to and this will be done.

So far as the small-scale sector is concerned, nothing I had announced on the 4th of July affects the small-scale sector. The place of the small-scale sector is well recognized. In fact, we have already indicated that supplementary licences will be available to the small-scale sector and we are not touching that that at all.

As far as the proportion of small-scale sector to the large-scale industry is concerned, I will convey the exact figure to the hon. Member if he wishes to know and if he tells in which particular sector he is interested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, my supplementary relates to the last sentence in the reply given by the honourable Minister. I quote:

"The Government expects that these changes will promote exports, reduce discretionary decision making and introduce greater automaticity in access to imports:"

Sir, I am confining myself to the use of the words, "....introduction of greater automaticity in access to imports." Sir, the honourable Minister of Finance is also present here now. Everybody is aware that there is a very great strain on our balance of payments in the country and the current deficit in the balance of payments is causing very much of a headache to the managers of our economy. So, there is an attempt to compress the imports and augment the exports. So, in this background, if we consider the new export-import policy and if we consider this wording—the intention is good—regarding introducing greater automaticity in access to imports, we will find, and I will also say, that there is a danger. Already the Minister has said that REP was already there and it has been increased to 30 per cent.... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, it sounds as "rape licence"! It is unparliamentary! ....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, actually it has been easily tradeable now, and it has been directly linked to exports. Suppose 'A' exports tobacco or tea and earns some REP licences, freely tradeable and he trades it with somebody else, and that buyer of REP licence imports such goods which may not be required to be imported now-some capital goods which are not directly linked to the production or export of tobacco or tea. So that way I want to know from the hon. Minister what, in concrete terms, are the steps the Government propose to take to see that this automaticity in import does not turn out to be in the increase of imports of such goods, including capital goods which are not required for our country at the moment.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am afraid my dear friend, Mr. Dipen Ghosh, has not quite appreciated the role of REP. REP licences were always tradeable. They were tradeable last year. They were tradeable the year before. They

are also tradeable now. It is nothing new. REP is a source of financing imports. It is an access to foreign exchange. REP by itself does not increase or decrease automaticity in imports or exports. REP is only a source of financing imports. Now, instead of Government allocating foreign exchange, we let the REP market allocate foreign exchange among importers. The import compression which you referred to is stated as one of the three principal objectives of Trade Reform Policy.

Sir, the hon. Member read the last paragraph. May I be permitted to request the hon. Member to refer to the first paragraph, where I have said that optimal import compression is one of the goals of our trade policy? And the steps taken before I assumed office, for which I give credit to my predecessor..I have no hesitation in giving credit to my predecessor—resulted in import compression by reducing actual users' licences by 24 per cent in 12 months' period over the previous year, registered exporters—1 per cent and other categories —7 per cent. And before I announced this trade policy the Finance Minister was very vigilant and extracted from me an import compression of about Rs. 3000 crores, and I am confident that we will achieve a compression of Rs. 3000 crores under the new policy.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, once upon a time there was an orientation that the Government should adopt policies to prevent brain drain from the country. Now there is a general orientation that manpower exports can result in bringing a large foreign exchange. Sir, I want to know from the Government whether the Government is going to adopt policies to encourage or facilitate the export from our country, of our adequate manpower, which will provide decongestion in the already over-crowed employment market in India, and the Government would give less jobs to our doctors, nurses and other technocrats?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Along with Members of Parliament...(*Interruptions*)

members of Parliament excluded ..(*Interruptions*)

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: May be the answer would require coordination between more than one Ministry. But the Government should come out with a policy towards this issue that Indians can earn a lot of foreign exchange by rendering technical services in the international market.

There is another dimension, Sir. A lot of..

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think that comes within his purview—the Commerce Minister.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, I already said that the purpose of exports is earning foreign exchange.

Sir, another dimension is. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not deal with foreign exchange.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Let me complete my question, Sir.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the best thing is to export some Members of Parliament. Then it will be a very peaceful House.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, let me complete my question. It is a serious issue. I am trying to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the large reservoir of international money that the country can earn by serving the technical needs of the world today. Sir, another area is technical education that we have built in our country today, specially medical education, nursing education and technical education. The country can earn a lot of foreign exchange by opening our facilities to the non-resident Indians and others. (*Interruptions*) I want to know the attitude of the Government. Are they going to facilitate and encourage the earning of foreign exchange through technical man-power and the technical education services that India has in abundance today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you like, you can answer. I do not know whether it comes within your purview.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, he has traversed a very wide ground. So far as it comes within my Ministry, let me answer just one or two points. Project exports is one of the areas where we would like to give a major thrust. And technical services as opposed to man-power is one of the areas where we would like to give a major thrust. But as far as man-power is concerned, that question should be addressed to the Minister of Labour. But project exports and technical services are areas where we would like to give a major thrust.

डा० अहरार अहमद: सभापति महोदय, यह तो निश्चित है कि नई निर्यात नीति से निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा । इसका काफी संबंध आन्तरिक बाजार से भी है । वस्तुओं का जो आन्तरिक बाजार मूल्य होता है वह डिमान्ड और सप्लाई के आधार पर निर्धारित होता है । इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने में ऐसी वस्तुओं के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन दे रहे हैं जिनकी आलरेडी आन्तरिक बाजार में सप्लाई कम है? जिन वस्तुओं की कमी है, इस प्रकार हे उन वस्तुओं के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने के कारण आन्तरिक बाजार में उन वस्तुओं की सप्लाई कम हो जाने के कारण क्या उनके मूल्यों में वृद्धि नहीं होगी क्योंकि मूल्यों का संबंध डिमान्ड और सप्लाई से होता है? जब आप ऐसी वस्तुओं का निर्यात करेंगे तो निश्चित रूप से उनकी सप्लाई घटेगी और डिमान्ड बढ़ेगी, मूल्य बढ़ेंगे । ऐसी स्थिति में ऐसी वस्तुओं के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने के बारे में क्या नीति है जिनकी आलरेडी हमारे आन्तरिक बाजार में कमी है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know what will you do with those goods which are in short supply in the internal market.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we will export nothing until the domestic demand is met and there is an exportble surplus.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, very recently the World Bank has released a document called 'Strategy for trade reform in India', ostensibly prepared at the suggestion of the Government of India, and the newly announced policy is the same and there has been no change at all even in the comma or semi-colon. Sir, according to that policy, in the phased scenario, there would be a short-term decline of about 6 per cent of capital goods output and 2 per cent of intermediary goods Machinery, metals and synthetic fibre industrieswould be most seriously affected. Sir, this is one of the short-term effects. Sir, the long-term effect in such a scenario would be that capital goods production might be expected to fall by 12 per cent and the production of intermediary goods by 6 per cent. Sir, thus, the Bank's own calculations clearly show that our capital goods sector will not only expand if the reform package is accepted for implementation but will, in fact, decline possibly much faster than the Bank expected.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if this projection, this stipulation is correct. In that case what are you going to do to offset the terrific loss which will kill our capital goods industries?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the projection is not correct. Therefore, the question of answering to the second part does not arise.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: That means the strategy published by the World Bank is not correct.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The hon. Member wished to know whether the projections which he was reading from the newspapers report are correct. My answer is those projections are not correct. That is a pessimistic scenario with which I don't agree.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Do you agree that the trade policy shift is at the instance of the World Bank? This is my point.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the trade policy changes were announced on

the 4th of July. I have not read the World Bank report which the hon. Member is referring to. The decisions which we have taken were taken on our own judgement based upon the work done by the previous Government and work done by our Government. We have taken these decisions according to our best judgement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 42.

Selling of Gold by Government

*42. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sold 20 tons of confiscated gold to ease the foreign exchange situation;

(b) what is the stock of gold necessary as security against the currency as per the law;

(c) whether Government propose to sell more confiscated gold to meet exigencies of debt servicing; and

(d) what is the estimate of gold held in the form of jewellery and oranaments by the people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Union Government leased 20 metric tonnes of confiscated gold held in Government account to the State Bank of India as per lease agreement dated May 16, 1991. In turn, the State Bank of India entered into a sale transaction with repurchase option with Union Bank of Switzerland, as per agreement dated May 18, 1991. The confiscated gold forms part of gold held in Government account and does not form part of the gold held by Reserve Bank of India.

(b) In terms of Section 33(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the aggregate value of gold coin and gold bullion held as assets of the Issue Department shall not at any time be less than Rs. 115 crores. As on 30th June 1991, the value of gold held in the Issue Department of Reserve Bank of India was Rs. 7410.80 crores.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) The Government does not have any estimate of the gold stocks held in the form of jewellery and ornaments by the people in this country.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, the statement mentions about the sale or lease of confiscated gold under Section 33(2). The aggregate quantity of gold with the Reserve Bank of India is round about Rs. 7400 crores after revaluation as per the Ordinance issued by the previous Government. But, Sir, in view of the ethos, emotion and culture of the Indian continent, gold is a substance which carries great emotional values particularly to the ladies. I am quite aware that the previous Government had leased 20 tonnes of gold to the State Bank of India. And further, as stated in your reply to Q. No. 44 another 34 tonnes have been air-lifted. It is in view of the precarious and deteriorating financial condition. There are various opinions of experts also. Many experts have stated that this policy of sending gold abroad may be perhaps politically justified in view of the crisis in the monetary system of this country. But emotionally, a more determined effort should have been made by the Ministry to convince the people of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly come to your question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am coming, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot take that much time. There should be a limit.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: We have taken half an hour on the last ....question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the question but not on one man. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I don't want to claim any seniority.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.